

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS

FACULTY & STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Tarek Abdel-Salam

Office of the Dean
College of Engineering and Technology

Azeez Aileru

Foundational Science and Research
School of Dental Medicine

Jerrell Ayran

Instructional Technology Consultant
College of Nursing

Dennis Barber III

Miller School of Entrepreneurship
College of Business

Ann "Catherine" Barnes

Nursing Student, Nurse-Midwifery
College of Nursing

Melissa Beck

Undergraduate Nursing
College of Nursing

Natasha Bell

Department of Engineering and Water Resources Center
College of Engineering and Technology

Ronny Bell

Public Health
Brody School of Medicine

Juan Beltran-Huarac

Physics
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Kelsey Booth

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Nicholas Broskey

Kinesiology
College of Health and Human Performance

Courtney Caiola

Nursing Science
College of Nursing

Kanchan Das

Technology Systems
College of Engineering and Technology

Nancy Dias

Nursing Science
College of Nursing

Helen Dixon

History
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Charles Ellis Jr

Communication Sciences and Disorders
College of Allied Health Sciences

Danny Ellis

Marketing and Supply Chain Management
Vice Chancellor's Fellow for Diversity Research
College of Business

Conley Evans

Instructional Technology Support Specialist
College of Nursing

Nicole Harden

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Nic Herndon

Computer Science
College of Engineering and Technology

Jake Hochard

Economics and Integrated Coastal Programs
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Elizabeth Hodge

Interdisciplinary Professions
College of Education

Molly Jacobs

Health Services and Information Management
College of Allied Health Sciences

Sharona Johnson

Director of Advanced Clinical Practice
Vidant Medical Center

FACULTY & STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Aaron Kipp

Public Health
Brody School of Medicine

Donna Lake

Nursing Science
College of Nursing

Jinkun Lee

Engineering
College of Engineering and Technology

Yang Liu

Engineering
College of Engineering and Technology

Carol Massarra

Construction Management
College of Engineering and Technology

Barbara Muller-Borer

Engineering
College of Engineering and Technology

Vanessa Pardi

Foundational Sciences
School of Dental Medicine

Ciprian Popoviciu

Technology Systems
College of Engineering and Technology

Pamela Reis

Nursing Science
College of Nursing

Kate Veal

Nursing Student, Nurse-Midwifery
College of Nursing

Ryan Wedge

Physical Therapy
College of Allied Health Sciences

Holly Wei

Graduate Department
College of Nursing

Hua Xu

Political Science
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

CLUSTER DIRECTOR

Burrell Montz

Geography, Planning and Environment
Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Saulo Geraldeli

General Dentistry
School of Dental Medicine

REDE LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Mary Farwell

Assistant Vice Chancellor
Research Compliance

Matthew Smith

Communications Specialist

Cassie Keel

University Program Support Associate
Community Engagement and Research

Kathryn Verbanac

Assistant Vice Chancellor
Research Development and Advancement

Jim Menke

Director of National Security Initiatives
National Security and Industry Initiatives

Keith Wheeler

Executive Director
National Security and Industry Initiatives

Sharon Paynter

Assistant Vice Chancellor
Economic and Community Engagement

BUS TOUR SPEAKERS

Tracy Cole

Principal, ECU Community School
Pitt County

Adam Congleton

Program Director, LifeQuest, Inc. Psychosocial Rehabilitation
Beaufort County

Jim Hoggard

Mayor of Windsor
Bertie County

Billy Smithwick

Tourism and Marketing Director, Town of Windsor
Bertie County

Steve Biggs

Bertie County Executive Director of Economic Development
Bertie County

Fen Rascoe

Member Manager, Greenfield Agronomic and
Green Root Extraction
Bertie County

Howard Phillips

Manager, Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
Tyrrell County

Reide Corbett

Dean, ECU Integrated Coastal Programs
Executive Director, Coastal Studies Institute
Dare County

John McCord

Assistant Director of Engagement and Outreach,
Coastal Studies Institute
Dare County

Neal Conoley

Author
Dare County

Mike Kelly

Owner, Mako's Beach Grille + Bar
Former ECU Trustee
Dare County

Ed Gibbons

Executive Director, U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Logistics Center
Pasquotank County

Captain Brian Hopkins

Commanding Officer,
U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Technical Training Center
Pasquotank County

Lieutenant Commander Caroline Kearney

Executive Officer,
U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Technical Training Center
Pasquotank County

Master Chief Gary Perriman

Command Master Chief,
U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Technical Training Center
Pasquotank County

Hal Burns

General Manager, Jimbo's Jumbos
Chowan County

Lauren White

Purchasing Manager and Operations Assistant, Jimbo's Jumbos
Chowan County

Joan Maxwell

President, Regulator Marine
Chowan County

Keith Stevens

Vice President, Regulator Marine
Chowan County

Robin Zinsmeister

Academic Dean of Workforce Development, Public Services
and Career Readiness, College of The Albemarle
Chowan County

Roland Vaughan

Chairman, Edenton-Chowan Partnership
Chowan County

Caroline Doherty

Chief Development and Programs Officer,
Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center
Hertford County

Weyling White

Practice Administrator,
Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center
Mayor, Ahoskie
Hertford County

Ford Grant

Director of General Dentistry,
ECU Community Service Learning Center - Ahoskie
Hertford County

Toni Bennett

Patient Care Coordinator,
ECU Community Service Learning Center - Ahoskie
Hertford County

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Tarek Abdel-Salam | abdelsalamt@ecu.edu

Office of the Dean
College of Engineering and Technology

Tarek Abdel-Salam earned his doctorate in mechanical engineering from Old Dominion University. His research is focused in two areas: technical research in thermo-fluids and engineering education. His technical research includes computational fluid dynamics methods, subsonic and supersonic mixing and combustion, fuel injection and sprays, fluidics and micromixers, energy efficiency, renewable energy (wave, wind and solar), and environmental management. In engineering education, his research includes areas related to recruitment into STEM fields, virtual engineering laboratories and distance education.



Azeez Aileru | aileru19@ecu.edu

Foundational Science and Research
School of Dental Medicine

Azeez Aileru earned his doctorate in physiology and biophysics from Howard University College of Medicine. In his field of neuroscience of cardiovascular diseases, he studies nerve to nerve communication and the elastic properties of blood vessels during different episodes of sustained blood pressure. His research also focuses on the acquired or genetic forms of hypertension. Aileru's work explores the mechanistic relationship between the brain and kidney in the long-term control of blood pressure, fluid volume and how a specific peptide system interacts with cardiovascular reflexes at specific brain sites. He aims to target the neural elements involved in enhancement of this nerve-to-nerve communication to bring about a therapeutic agent specific for acquired and familial forms of hypertension.



Jerrell Ayran | ayranj19@ecu.edu

Instructional Technology Consultant
College of Nursing

Jerrell Ayran earned his bachelor's degree in music performance from North Central University in Minneapolis, Minn. Ayran has served as a videographer for the College of Nursing since February 2019. He assists in the shooting and editing of videos, provides original music composition and scoring for media pieces, and shoots and edits photos for the college.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Dennis Barber III | barberde17@ecu.edu

Miller School of Entrepreneurship
College of Business

Dennis Barber III earned his doctorate in economics with a specialization in public finance and development economics from the University of New Mexico. Barber conducts applied research on the topics of transition and exit planning, entrepreneurship education and pedagogy, rural entrepreneurship, economic development, public policy, and entrepreneurial attitudes. He strives to engage with community leaders and small business owners as a means to identify opportunities to work together.



Ann "Catherine" Barnes | barnesa18@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Nurse-Midwifery
College of Nursing

Catherine Barnes earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Barton College and has worked in an in-patient obstetrical setting in eastern NC for 11 years. She currently holds an adjunct position at Wilson Community College teaching maternal-child content. Her interests include increasing access to quality, holistic primary care for women in the agricultural industry.



Melissa Beck | schwartzme@ecu.edu

Undergraduate Nursing
College of Nursing

Melissa Beck earned her doctorate in nursing from East Carolina University. Her research interest includes storytelling, digital stories, simulation and serious games. Beck's research goals aim to create, implement and evaluate the use of serious games as a replacement for lecture and as a preparatory tool for simulation and clinical. She assesses the combination of narrative, digital media and serious games on learning outcomes in undergraduate nursing students.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Natasha Bell | bellna19@ecu.edu

Department of Engineering and Water Resources Center
College of Engineering and Technology

Natasha Bell earned her doctorate in biosystems engineering from Clemson University's Department of Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences. Her research focuses on the development of sustainable environmental remediation strategies that inform decision-making and policies within the water-energy-food nexus. Specifically, she focuses on green infrastructure and ecological technologies, including constructed wetlands, subsurface bioreactors, and passive filters for remediation of waterborne pollutants. Her goal is to understand water quality and quantity issues in eastern North Carolina and beyond. She also aims to investigate potential barriers that may limit the adoption of novel bioremediation technologies, while quantifying ecosystem services that these technologies provide.



Ronny Bell | bellr16@ecu.edu

Public Health
Brody School of Medicine

Ronny Bell earned his doctorate in foods and nutrition from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Following graduation, he served as postdoctoral fellow in gerontology and earned a master's degree in epidemiology from the Wake Forest School of Medicine. Bell's research focuses on understanding and addressing health disparities in rural populations, with particular interest in American Indian and rural populations. He currently serves as the chair for the North Carolina Diabetes Advisory Council and the North Carolina American Indian Health Board.



Juan Beltran-Huarac | beltranhuaracj19@ecu.edu

Physics
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Juan Beltran-Huarac earned his doctorate in chemical physics from the University of Puerto Rico. His research interests focus on studying the interaction of functional nanoconstructs with biological systems in the presence of super low-frequency AC magnetic fields to treat cancer. His goal is to gain a better understanding how mechanical motion of field-activated nanoconstructs induces changes in cell function and tumor microenvironment. Beltran-Huarac's technology advances efforts to treat cancer remotely and has the potential for translation in the clinic.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Kelsey Booth | boothk19@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Kelsey Booth earned bachelor's in nursing from Appalachian State University. She has been a registered nurse since 2016 and has worked in a variety of settings including pediatric intensive care, emergency medicine and cardiac intermediate care. Booth's goals include improving access to health resources in rural communities, providing improvements in education surrounding chronic illness, and providing preventative care to underserved communities. Her personal goal is to make a positive impact on the life of every patient she meets.



Nicholas Broskey | broskeyn19@ecu.edu

Kinesiology
College of Health and Human Performance

Nicholas Broskey earned his doctorate in metabolism from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. Broskey is a translational scientist focusing on skeletal muscle physiology. Particularly, Broskey is interested in the role of mitochondria in health and disease and how exercise interventions can help ameliorate conditions of metabolic disease through mitochondrial biology. He has worked on interventions involving exercise training in elderly individuals at risk for diabetes and now focuses on the opposite side of the age spectrum – infants. He is interested in how maternal health during pregnancy programs infants in utero for future metabolic health outcomes. He is currently using an umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cell model, a unique model that when differentiated into a myogenic or adipogenic phenotype represents fetal tissue. Using this model, his future research plans involve delving further into developmental programming of obesity and diabetes with a focus on mitochondria as potential cellular organelles responsible for the imprinting of metabolic health status in infants.



Courtney Caiola | caiolac19@ecu.edu

Nursing Science
College of Nursing

Courtney Caiola earned her doctorate in nursing from Duke University's School of Nursing. Her research is aimed at improving the health outcomes of mothers at risk for, or living, with chronic illness by examining and addressing the social and economic determinants of their health. As a means of addressing the inherent complexity of health inequities faced by mothers, Caiola uses intersectional approaches, syndemic theory and community-engaged research methods in her work.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Kanchan Das | dask@ecu.edu

Technology Systems
College of Engineering and Technology

Kanchan Das earned his doctorate in industrial engineering from Windsor, Ontario, Canada. His current research interest include integration of Lean systems, sustainability considerations, risk management, and resiliency planning in supply chain design and management. Das is a member of Decision Sciences Institute and Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers.



Nancy Dias | diasn17@ecu.edu

Nursing Science
College of Nursing

Nancy Dias earned her doctorate in pediatric bereavement care from Duke University's School of Nursing. Her research interests are in pediatric palliative, end-of-life and bereavement care. Her research goal is to develop interventions for bereaved parents and their families with a goal to improve their health outcomes. She has developed, and is testing, a web-based, multi-modal intervention for bereaved parents that can be implemented during the child's end-of-life and utilized during the bereavement period.



Helen Dixon | dixonhe19@ecu.edu

History
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Helen Dixon earned her doctorate in near eastern studies, with a graduate certificate in museum studies, from the University of Michigan. Her research explores the ancient Mediterranean world through the culture, history and impact of the Phoenicians in the first millennium BCE. Her interdisciplinary work draws on archaeological excavations, mortuary inscriptions, museum study, and archive work in Lebanon, Syria, Cyprus, Israel, the West Bank, Greece, Turkey, and Jordan. This work informs her investigations into how Phoenicians and their neighbors negotiated their social identities in life and in death. Dixon maintains secondary publishing interests in the study and teaching of the ancient world and the increasingly urgent ethical challenges of the international antiquities trade.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Charles Ellis Jr. | ellisc14@ecu.edu

Communication Sciences and Disorders
College of Allied Health Sciences

Charles Ellis Jr. earned his doctorate in rehabilitation science from the University of Florida. Ellis' academic concentration focuses on adult neurogenic disorders. Additionally, he teaches courses related to aphasia and cognitive disorders. His research emphasizes outcomes associated with adult neurologically based disorders of communication and factors that contribute to the lack of equity in service provision and outcome disparities that exist among African Americans and other underrepresented minority groups. Ellis has authored or co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed journals articles, two book chapters and has over 100 presentations to his credit related to Parkinson's disease, stroke, traumatic brain injury, and health disparities and minority health issues.



Danny Ellis | ellisd14@ecu.edu

Marketing and Supply Chain Management
Vice Chancellor's Fellow for Diversity Research
College of Business

Danny Ellis earned his doctorate in human services from Capella University. His research interests include diversity capital, community engagement, and faith-based and community sustainability. After a full military career as a health administrator, he spent 15 years as the executive director of a rural community-based organization. His research aims to expand the tenets of community-based participatory research, inclusive of historically underrepresented faith leaders, to prepare their organizations for sustained health intervention. He designs studies addressing HIV testing and case management, diabetes, heart diseases, and other health disparities.



Conley Evans | evansmar@ecu.edu

Instructional Technology Support Specialist
College of Nursing

Conley Evans earned his bachelor's degree in technical photography from Appalachian State University. Evans has assisted in shooting and editing photos for the College of Nursing since 2012.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Saulo Geraldeli | geraldelis19@ecu.edu

General Dentistry
School of Dental Medicine

Saulo Geraldeli earned his doctorate in dentistry with a focus in dental materials from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. His research interests relate to the understanding of current dental biomaterials performance in both laboratories and clinical environments. His laboratory is equipped to synthesize and test bioactive nanoparticles for the delivery of nano-precursors and ions aiming remineralization of demineralized dental tissues.



Nicole Harden | hardens19@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Nicole Harden earned her associate's degree in nursing from College of the Albemarle and her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She has worked as an emergency room nurse for four years. Harden's research interest includes family presence during cardiac pulmonary resuscitation and cardiac pulmonary resuscitation education in public schools and the community.



Nic Herndon | herndonn19@ecu.edu

Computer Science
College of Engineering and Technology

Nic Herndon earned his doctorate in computer science from Kansas State University. Prior to joining ECU, he was a teaching fellow in the College of Information and Computer Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Before that, Herndon was a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Connecticut in the Plant Computational Genomics Lab; a bioinformatics specialist at the Bioinformatics Center at Kansas State University; a programmer analyst in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at Kansas State University; a software engineer at International Game Technology; and a system administrator at Barnes & Noble, Inc.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Jake Hochard | hochardj15@ecu.edu

Economics and Integrated Coastal Programs
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Jake Hochard earned his doctorate in environmental economics from the University of Wyoming. His research focuses on the impact of hurricanes on rural poverty and reproductive health in eastern North Carolina. He works with interdisciplinary teams – funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – to help guide natural infrastructure investments in the eastern part of North Carolina.



Elizabeth Hodge | hodgee@ecu.edu

Interdisciplinary Professions
College of Education

Elizabeth Hodge earned her doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Florida. Hodge believes that the seed of innovation can grow in numerous ways to create impact. As a member of the Economic Development Engagement Council, Hodge works to engage students and faculty in innovation and entrepreneurship, including through a grant program in the College of Education that supports research and innovation activities. Hodge also serves as the program director for the North Carolina New Teacher Support grant. The comprehensive, university-based induction program offers a research-based curriculum and services designed to increase teacher effectiveness, enhance skills and reduce attrition among beginning teachers.



Molly Jacobs | jacobsm17@ecu.edu

Health Services and Information Management
College of Allied Health Sciences

Molly Jacobs earned her doctorate in economics from George Washington University with a focus in econometrics and labor. Her research interests include social, genetic and behavioral determinants of health outcomes among adolescents and young adults. Jacobs' research focuses on applying unconventional empirical techniques to big data including machine learning, neural network, and Bayesian simulation of health disparities. Having served for five years as an economist for the USDA, she has extensive experience analyzing federal food programs including SNAP, TANF and WIC. Her expertise in data validation and cleaning has enabled many novel partnerships with public health, medical and social collaborators.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Sharona Johnson | shajohns@vidanthealth.com

Director of Advanced Clinical Practice
Vidant Medical Center

Sharona Johnson earned her doctorate in nursing from East Carolina University. Her passion for the plight of people with end stage renal disease led her to complete her master's degree as a family nurse practitioner. She continues to provide care to a population at ECU Nephrology and Hypertension Clinic. Johnson has also published her research on coping with hemodialysis.



Aaron Kipp | kippa19@ecu.edu

Public Health
Brody School of Medicine

Aaron Kipp earned his doctorate in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research interests are broadly in the social and behavioral factors that affect access, retention and adherence to care for various marginalized populations, including people with HIV, tuberculosis or opioid use disorder. This includes measurement and consequences of HIV-, TB- and substance use-related stigma. Kipp also strives to ascertain the impact of marijuana use, including motivation for use, on retention in care for people living with HIV.



Donna Lake | laked@ecu.edu

College of Nursing

Donna Lake earned her doctorate in health sciences with a concentration in health care management. A nursing executive with more than 40 years of experience, she is a retired United States Air Force colonel, serving as a nurse and medical commander. Her clinical practice areas include ICU, ED, cardiology, primary care, community and public health, health promotion, health policy, and legislative/advocacy work. Her research includes patient safety, curriculum design, adolescence wellness health, interprofessional teams, and veteran health.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Jinkun Lee | leejin18@ecu.edu

Engineering
College of Engineering and Technology

Jinkun Lee earned his doctorate in industrial engineering and operations research from Pennsylvania State University. His research interests include developing a data-driven optimization algorithm for complex dynamic systems and evaluating a unified framework with optimal control and reinforcement learning. Lee's current research applications include developing an optimal vehicle routing algorithm for drone-truck combined operation and developing an optimal insulin infusion controller for diabetes treatment.



Yang Liu | liuya19@ecu.edu

Engineering
College of Engineering and Technology

Yang Liu earned his doctorate in aerospace engineering from Iowa State University. His research interests include fundamental studies on challenging thermal-fluids problems, and development of advanced flow diagnostic techniques and instrumentation with multidisciplinary applications. His current research foci include: coastal hazard mitigation; wave/tidal energy harvest; icing problems on aircraft/wind turbine/solar panel/power transmission line etc; anti-/de-icing technologies; complex thermal flow in fuel injection and renewable energy; and unsteady heat transfers and inter-facial dynamics in multiphase flow.



Carol Massarra | massarrac19@ecu.edu

Construction Management
College of Engineering and Technology

Carol Massarra earned her doctorate in engineering science from Louisiana State University. Her research interests lie in the areas of resilience to natural hazards with emphasis on post-hurricane performance of residential buildings. Her resilient construction research primarily focuses on spatial and non-spatial data-based natural hazards damage modeling and associated field damage data collection and performance of buildings and other built infrastructure subjected to hurricane multi-hazards. She approaches her research from the perspective of a builder (supply), homeowner (demand) and building code authority (regulation). Massarra's research outcomes help individual and communities make effective decisions that increase resiliency, especially in coastal areas.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Burrell Montz | montzb@ecu.edu

Geography, Planning, and Environment
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Burrell Montz earned her doctorate in geography from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her research interests center on the social sciences aspects of natural hazards and water resources management. Her current research centers on how to present uncertainty to spark appropriate responses to severe weather warnings, the impact of hurricanes on water utility planning and operations, and land management to address bluff erosion in the face of severe storms and sea level rise. Montz serves as co-director of the Natural Resources and the Environment Research Cluster, a faculty affiliate with ECU's Water Resources Center, and is a research associate with the Center for Natural Hazards Research.



Barbara Muller-Borer | mullerborerb@ecu.edu

Engineering
College of Engineering and Technology

Barbara Muller-Borer earned her doctorate in biomedical engineering from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She currently serves as the chair of the Department of Engineering. As director of ECU's Cell Based Therapy and Tissue Engineering Laboratory, her research has centered on exploring cell-signaling mechanisms that underlie and contribute to the differentiation and function of adult-derived stem cells for the treatment of heart disease. Current research is focused on creating 3D bioengineered microenvironments to study cell-to-cell interactions and developing bio-based scaffolds using novel electrospinning technology.



Vanessa Pardi | pardiv19@ecu.edu

Foundational Sciences
School of Dental Medicine

Vanessa Pardi earned her doctorate in dentistry from the State University of Campinas, Brazil. Pardi's research interest is on oral health promotion and diseases prevention. Her research evaluates of preventative treatments and oral health education intervention to identify the most cost-effective and efficient methods that can be applied to decrease the disparities in oral health. Diet and nutrition, behavioral and sociodemographic factors, and their role on the maintenance of a good oral health are part of her interests as well. The goal of her research is to provide evidence-based data that supports the creation of health promotion programs that reduce the burdens of oral disease on underserved and underrepresented population.

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Ciprian Popoviciu | popoviciuc18@ecu.edu

Technology Systems
College of Engineering and Technology

Ciprian Popoviciu earned his doctorate in physics from the University of Miami. His research interests include communications infrastructure technologies and operational processes applied towards enabling and managing large scale networks and sensing environments. Ciprian's main focus areas are AI-assisted management of networks and managed Internet of things (IoT) solutions for environmental, water management and agricultural process optimizations. He is also focused on increasing broadband access availability in underserved communities.



Pamela Reis | reisp@ecu.edu

Nursing Science
College of Nursing

Pam Reis earned her doctorate in nursing from East Carolina University. She has more than 40 years of nursing experience that includes practice as a nurse-midwife and neonatal nurse practitioner. Reis is the project director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions (HRSA), Division of Nursing Advanced Nursing Education Workforce grant project "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Academic-Clinical Practice Collaborative." In her role as project director, she coordinates the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Rural and Underserved Roadmap to Advance Leadership (RURAL) Scholars Program – an immersive experience in the primary care of rural and underserved communities in eastern North Carolina.



Kate Veal | vealk19@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Nurse-Midwifery
College of Nursing

Kate Veal earned her bachelor's in nursing from Anderson University in Indiana. She is currently pursuing her master's in nurse-midwifery at East Carolina University. She is participating in the APRN Rural Scholars program at ECU. Her interests include bridging gaps in continuity and access to women's health care for underserved populations, as well as the provision of respectful maternal care based on a human rights framework.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Ryan Wedge | wedger19@ecu.edu

Physical Therapy
College of Allied Health Sciences

Ryan Wedge earned his doctorate in kinesiology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Wedge is interested in the mechanics and energetics of how people walk with and without an injury. His current focus is on patients with lower extremity amputations, but can be expanded to most injuries and surgeries. Wedge's research seeks to understand what objectives are most important to the walking system after an injury and how those objectives affect walking mechanics. After gaining that understanding, Wedge's research can be used to optimize rehabilitation interventions and device design to improve patient function.



Holly Wei | weih16@ecu.edu

Graduate Department
College of Nursing

Holly Wei earned her doctorate in nursing from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her research interest is in leadership development. Wei would like to work with leaders in eastern North Carolina to promote the health of the people and nurses in these communities, including programs to reduce stress.



Hua Xu | xuh19@ecu.edu

Political Science
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Daniel Xu earned his doctorate in public administration from Rutgers University. His areas of interests include health policy and public health, government financial management and budgeting, collaborative and e-governance, rural and community development, and public management. His scholarly work has appeared in a dozen journals and books. As a practitioner, he has worked at the Alabama Department of Public Health, the U.S. Farm Credit Administration, and the State Council Office for Poverty Reduction and Rural Development in Beijing, China.

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Holly Wei | weih16@ecu.edu

Graduate Department
College of Nursing

Holly Wei earned her doctorate in nursing from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her research interest is in leadership development. Wei would like to work with leaders in eastern North Carolina to promote the health of the people and nurses in these communities, including programs to reduce stress.



Hua Xu | xuh19@ecu.edu

Political Science
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Daniel Xu earned his doctorate in public administration from Rutgers University. His areas of interests include health policy and public health, government financial management and budgeting, collaborative and e-governance, rural and community development, and public management. His scholarly work has appeared in a dozen journals and books. As a practitioner, he has worked at the Alabama Department of Public Health, the U.S. Farm Credit Administration, and the State Council Office for Poverty Reduction and Rural Development in Beijing, China.